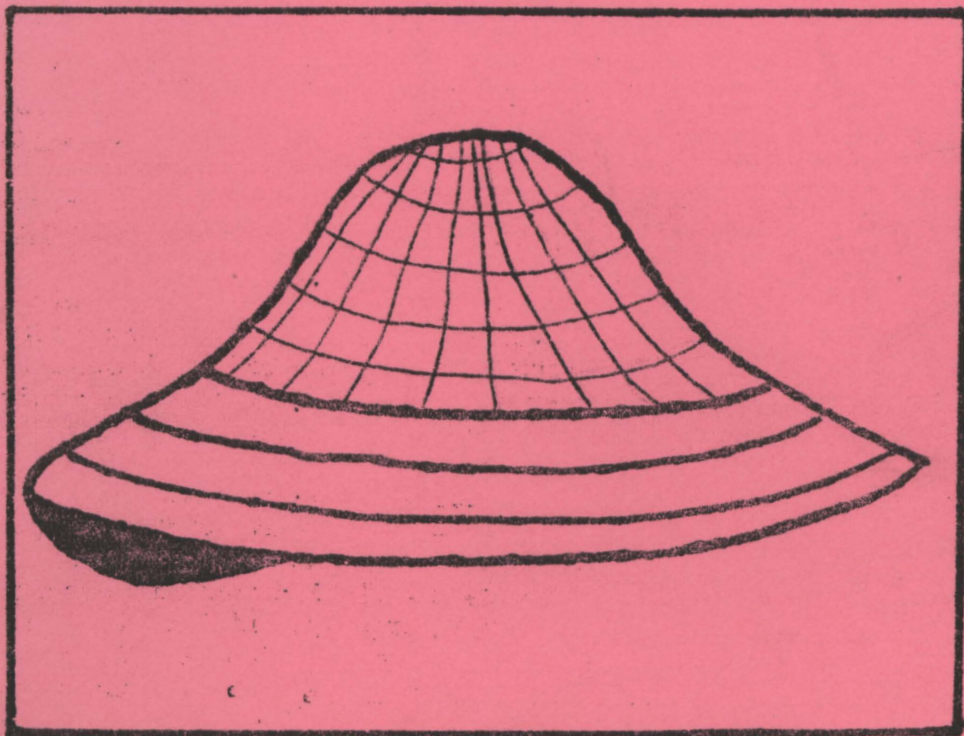


NUFON NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of the
NORTHERN UFO NETWORK

IN THE POST:: National Contacts

APRIL 23:: "... We have been aware of the existence of NUFON FOR some time, and once before caught sight of a copy of your publication but for some reason do not appear to actually have made contact. Before continuing may I say how informative we found NUFON News, and how much we concur with many of the views expressed therein. . . . In our forthcoming issue we have an article entitled "RECENT UFO ACTIVITY OVER TEESIDE" My reason in mentioning this is to indicate that we would be interested in exploring ways and means of publishing further northern UFO sightings etc in AWARENESS.." Jn DELAIR -CONTACT UK

(These extracts are from a most welcome recent communique. It is very much to be hoped that such liaison is possible and most certainly we will be looking into the matter. Indeed we shall most gladly supply articles etc on activity in the region, and of course material from NUFON News can be readily used provided the appropriate investigative group are credited. Mr Delair has also requested to review NUFON News in their Summer Journal. EDITOR)

UNDATED "...I wish my views on BUFORA were not what they were, but after 5-6 years of falling on deaf ears I'm sure you can understand my feelings which are quite frankly NOT dislike or bitterness, but amazement and sorrow. AMAZED that such a supposed big group doesn't have the common courtesy to acknowledge my letters or free copies of UFO News and SAD that the members I have spoken to feel they are treated badly...." UFO NEWS

(I make no apology for seeming to be STIRRING trouble. Indeed far from it. It is true people have complaints against BUFORA and they have a right to raise them. On the whole BUFORA are beginning to show some initiative. NUFON will of course continue to do all it can to assist them - BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY. I think the new Liaison Officer situation will help and perhaps UFO News will have less to complain about. It is important that squabbles and pointless exchanges of grumbles are ELIMINATED. We ALL have an important job to do and just as BUFORA and NUFON are doing their best to work together on it so, I feel, should BUFORA and UFO News. The latter, incidentally, would love to receive articles and correspondence from northern groups. NUFON will certainly try to cooperate with this excellent independent journal - EDITOR)

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P6 & 7 In the News, Viewpoint, Maps & Drawings etc
P8-10 SIGHTING NEWS: BUFORA : MUFORA : NAPRA : RIGAP
P11 Around the Groups - 3) NAPRA

EDITORIAL: "Our first birthday"

NUFON (then UNO) was actually formed on March 25 1974 but it is true to say that MAY is the actual anniversary since it was at that time that not only did we begin publishing the newsletter but also several projects were formally initiated. The time is now ripe to look back over this period and ask these questions: WHAT IS NUFON'S FUNCTION? HOW FAR HAVE WE SUCCEEDED IN IT? WHAT MORE CAN WE STILL DO?

Our function is I believe one of communication in essence, for it is through this that UFO groups can be voluntarily brought into liaison. We have never set out to integrate or merge group activities. Diversity and independence are important factors.

A look at what we have achieved quite honestly surprises me, since I tend naturally to be constantly dissatisfied with any situation. I believe that the dozen or so groups in communication via NUFON know far more about themselves and the UFO field in the north than they did before. This must be one achievement. The tapes, newsletters etc have helped to spread INFORMATION. We are also now ensuring this news spreads outward from the region - WITH THE CREDIT GOING TO THE PLACE IT DESERVES. One can feel optimism that the system of PUBLISHING group research work supplies something to Ufology and science and various cooperative schemes (though not yet perfect) are at least being attempted.

I would not dispute there are things in which we have failed. There is still no organisation or committee nor have we held MANY joint functions (see P5). Yet on the whole these points are secondary in importance to what we HAVE done. The proposals featured elsewhere in this issue to increase our field of publications must, if they succeed, improve our scientific standing - which must be one of the main things we are aiming for.

Doubtless there is much more we can ultimately do to improve the position of Ufology in this part of the country but for now we can allow ourselves a little pat on the back as it doesn't go to our heads!

GROUP NEWS::

BUFORA (Yrks):: Things are still quiet for them with regards to actual SIGHTINGS but they are succeeding in attracting many new members. Trevor Whitaker, who often gives lectures, unfortunately was disrupted from this by Students at Lancaster University, His effort at the Harley Convention should make up for this and will be 'dealt with' next month. In June the group hold their 12th anniversary Dinner. Bon Appetite!

MUFORA:: Are busy with preparation for the June event (see P5). They have not been totally inactive on the UFO front either and Jenny Randles was interviewed by Picadilly Radio on April 23 regarding various matters - including the recent statement by a Warwickshire Police Sergeant that UFO activity should be dealt with more thoroughly. A plea was made for more cooperation between Police & UFO groups (though MUFORA are fortunate in this respect) - but little could be said in reply to a police statement from Greater Manchester (made for the feature) that ANY UFO LANDING IN GREATER MANCHESTER WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE ARRESTED!!! They also claimed that the UFO problem was almost non-existent but didn't fool the interviewer who concluded - "Keep looking out for them, Jenny, the police aren't!" The regular monthly meeting proved fascinating with the special screening of the ATV Film of a UFO (or alleged one) taken some years back by a film crew on location in a field. Also what is a most odd object picked out by the eagle eyes of Jeff Porter and Pete Warrington in the background of a feature film 'The Seven Keys' screened recently by Granada TV. Both clips were fully scrutinised and amply discussed afterwards.

WUFOS:: Have gone international - to say the least! Contacts are in process of establishment with Australia, Germany, France, Portugal and Fiji!!! Many people will have heard of them than BUFORA soon) Added to that FRANK STRANGES - no less - has agreed to write a piece for their bi-monthly journal SKYLARK. The Skywatch was hampered by poor weather. Nevertheless at least three groups took part and we may still be able to publish a TECHNICAL REPORT. Undaunted they are pressing on with the PUBLICITY WEEK - which shows initial signs of having better response. One final point MIKE DEAN is moving home. For now please address all correspondence, eg for books, c/o Ken Green.

RIGAN:: Are also instigating a project into RESEARCH CAPABILITIES and a questionnaire will be circulated shortly.

GENERAL NEWS::

CONFERENCE '75:: This event has now been definitely finalised. It is being held by MUFORA, in conjunction with NUFON, and will fill most of the day on SATURDAY JUNE 7TH. It is to be held at the RENOLDS THEATRE UMIST (University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology) in Central Manchester just two minutes walk from Picadilly Station. We are hoping to fill the 500 seats and request some local publicity from the NUFON groups. It will actually be billed as a DOUBLE LECTURE with Arthur Tomlinson giving a talk on 'UFOs - what are the facts?' between 10-11.5am and 2-30 and Norman Oliver on 'The origins of UFOs' from 2-30 onwards. The theme is to be THE NUTS & BOLTS SIDE OF UFOLOGY. The hall will be available from 10am till 5pm and there should be ample time between lectures for a GENERAL NUFON GET-TOGETHER where YOU can raise any matters for discussion. It is hoped that all groups will bring a strong contingent with them. There is also space for EXHIBITIONS. NUFON will be displaying graphs, charts and maps and other ideas from MUFORA are a large wall display of UFO SHAPES and DRAWINGS, DIAGRAMS and DATA on RECENT LOCAL cases of significance. NUFON Groups are cordially invited to assist with displays. Space is limited and you are asked to give us a reasonable idea of what you intend to produce AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Tickets are available through NUFON or MUFORA at 50p for the day. We hope you will do your best to publicise and support this event.

THE TAPE SCHEME:: Plans for a TAPE LIBRARY are now being formulated. It is suggested that groups send either a blank REEL or CASSETTE on which to record a copy of the chosen lecture etc. This will aid the speed of availability of recent tapes. BOTH SUFORS and WUFOS have kindly offered to take charge. Perhaps we will be able to arrange for one to look after REELS and the other CASSETTE recordings. We hope you will help add to our list with tapes of group lectures etc and of course there will be new additions whenever possible. The initial list is as follows. Cassette only is available at present - and there may be a delay of a week or so. Please send tapes PLUS return postage.:

DEC 74 'ET life - little green men or large red herring' TIM O'BRIEN Approx 2hrs
BUFORA LECTURES::
 JAN 75 'Some Singular cases' Lionel BEEB 75mins
 FEB 75 'Great Balls of Fire' NORMAN OLIVER "

OTHERS: WUFOS CONFERENCE - June 74 Approx 20mins & others on request
 APEN 'Message' Tape 1975 " 60mins
 + Ter unavailable (approx 3 weeks)

SUBSCRIPTIONS::

Unfortunately this has to be mentioned YET again since several persons still have not obliged. Indeed some will not receive this issue and only those who have shown at least some willingness will do so. This has to be fair to those who have paid. The rate is £1.50 for 12 issues (Mar75-Feb 76)::

SPECIAL ISSUES:: STILL AVAILABLE

75/1 Booklist (compiled by M Dean - WUFOS) 10p
 75/2 SUFORS REPORT (Watson - essay plus sighting survey)
 75/3 + NUFON Report 1970-74 (In preparation) (20p)
 + It is hoped to have this ready for the June convention. Groups may still submit theses for publication but there may be a short delay until 75/3 is fully completed.

MUFORA LIAISON OFFICER::

Congratulations are due to Jeff Porter (MUFORA) who has been appointed group liaison officer for the north. Jeff is of course actively involved with NUFON.

IN THE NEWS::

No doubt the results of the PUBLICITY WEEK will give us much to comment on next month. Meanwhile UFO news has not been entirely thin on the ground these past weeks.

FEB 21:: A copy of the Huddersfield Examiner report on UFOs and MUFORA Yorks has come to my attention. It is a full page piece with two photos (Stephen Pratts Conisborough 'UFOs' and Trevor & Doreen Whitaker). It is well presented, clearly argued and covers a good deal (prehistory, Condon, Hynek, MUFORA and NUFON). EG:: "Of the first 237 UFO reports received by USAF in 1948-9 some 20% stumped the experts. Twenty years later another committee (Condon) using presumably a better selection of reports and more scientists were unable to find solutions for more than 25% of the cases they examined" - Hynek
 "Many sightings are explainable in straightforward terms but there's always that challenging, untractable residue" - Whitaker

READERS DIGEST:: Definition "Hallucination: When somebody sees a flying saucer"
 "UFO: - When we do!!!"

A recent issue of the weekly news featured a story of mass UFO reports in Japan this January (cf Oldham)

The Reveille for week May 12-18 promises a story on Prince Philip and the UFO at the Palace

Then of course the stories of the British Airship - I wonder where the design came from?

VIEWPOINT: "GRAMMAR AND SPELLING" - Mike Dean WUFOS

The first main contact most people make with up-to-date Ufology is through the magazine/newsletter of a UFO group. It is often this which acts as a press release to local radio stations, newspapers etc. With such a wide audience why do UFO groups when they produce a newsletter totally ignore the grammar and spelling of the English language? This may seem a pointless grouse, but bad punctuation can give a sentence an entirely different meaning, which could be misinterpreted by a newspaper with unfortunate consequences.

Even NUFON News suffers from this; indeed there are only three UFO magazines I can think of which are reasonably free from this: FSR, MUFORA JOURNAL and SKYLINK. I am not boasting about Skylink - and many UFO magazines would improve if they followed our guidelines:-

- Always check spelling (a 50p investment in a dictionary is well worthwhile), and use ENGLISH not American spellings.
- Invest in a bottle of stencil correcting fluid. It saves a lot of bother if you make a mistake.
- Get a second person to check stencils when complete. It only takes 5-10mins and leads to better overall presentation.
- Use grammar properly. Make sure you close brackets. Commas are there as a mental breath when reading, and should separate clauses. Some editors could do with borrowing a grammar book from their local library.

Remember your magazine is a representative of Ufology to the public. If they cannot make sentences out or have to decipher an article they just won't bother. Let's see an improvement - PLEASE!!

(Point taken Mike. Of course NUFON News works on the tightest of schedules but you will be pleased to hear your Editor is taking a course in English, Shorthand and Typing soon. Mind you, the spelling is all right - as the Grammar never came in I ignored her

INVESTIGATION SECTION

PREVIOUS REPORTS::

7514 (see April 75 issue): WUFOS have virtually confirmed that the object was NOT a satellite. A weather balloon was reported but this does not fit the recorded movements and description.

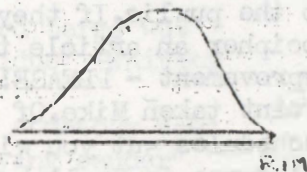
7516 (see April 75 issue): In view of the Rochdale 'flap' recorded elsewhere this issue a possible explanation for this report is forthcoming. Further work is still being done on it, however.

6202 ??? 19-30 PRESCOT, Lancs NAPRA
On a cloudy day an EX RAF man with his mother observed a big oval shape orange in colour. It was in view two minutes and was the apparant size of a hand. As it moved away to the north it seemed to be smaller. It suddenly shot straight up from 35° to 90° elevation.

6603 ??? 14-00 DERBYSHIRE NAPRA
An even stranger object was recalled by the same witness whilst employed as a long distance lorry driver. He followed a shiny metal cigar shape, which was perfectly smooth, as it progressed for three minutes on a South-East path. It was heading towards Uttoxeter. The apparant size was that of a finger at arms length and it was slow - estimated 4 mph. It may have disappeared into clouds but his attention was distracted for a moment by his driving. Elevation was 50°.

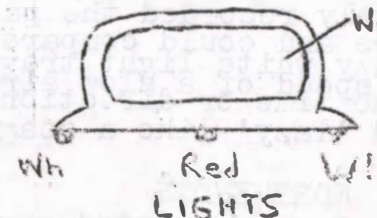
465 SEPT 1974 19-30 Crosby, Merseyside NAPRA
The witness, a civil Engineer, was with several other members of the family when they all saw a white star like object come over from Crosby docks. It resolved into a white, fluorescent disc shape and was moving very slowly (5-10 mph) in a West-East path. It seemed to hover for a few seconds then proceed. It did this on several occasions and was in view 10 minutes. Size of 1p piece. Elevation 35°.

7466 DEC 1974 19-00 PRESCOT, Lancs NAPRA
The witness is a cable-checker. He made his observation through 7x50 binoculars. The object seen was dome shaped with a rim underneath. It was white in colour and hovered at an elevation of 35° for about 1½ mins. Its apparant size was of a cigarette pack etc. The rim turned red/orange and then the object rapidly accelerated straight upward and out of sight.



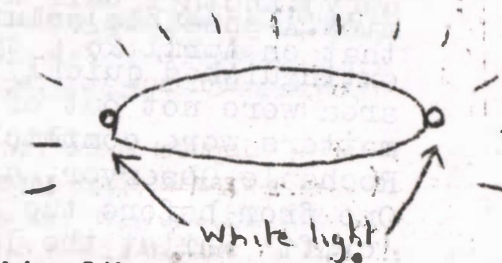
7517 Jan 9 1975 18-45 Leek STAFFS RUFORA (Staffs)

This very interesting report has been mentioned before and as pointed out at that time will undoubtedly feature strongly in a future RUFORA Journal. However, two sisters returning home to Leek by car first noted it. One sister pointed it out and the other swerved the car to a halt. They watched the brilliantly lit dome hover over fields then silently fly in front of them, hover again and then seemingly land behind a hill. At this they headed right for the police station. A man and wife driving not a few miles away INDEPENDANTLY reported it to RUFORA and in all details of description and flight their story matches.



7518 Jan 19 1975 00-15 Gwalchmai WALES NAPRA
A farmer and wife on the isle of Anglesey observed for 6 min the passage from West to South East of a cartwheel of fire. It was red, rotating and emitting smoke. At times it filled the window and was viewed through opera glasses. It became a red glow, then whitish and finally disappeared instantly.

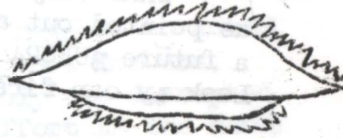
7519 Feb 20 1975 00-0 Haslingden RIGAP
A preliminary report on what promises to be yet another exciting case from the Rossendale Valley. It concerns two boys who were walking alone over the moors. The object they reported was quite small, elongated and silver in colour. It seemed to flicker and had a white light on each end. It moved silently through the haze low down (elevation about 10 degrees) in an ENE direction. They ran down the hill and turning back saw it vanish over the horizon. A moment later a light aircraft with navigation light followed the same route allowing comparison. It was nothing like it!



7520 Feb 20 1975 01-45 Tern Hill Shrops RUFORA
A young farmer's wife was followed for twenty minutes by a bowl shaped object which zoomed in on her car and accelerated with her. She had to turn off the main road to lose it.

16
7522 March 28 1975 21-15 PRESCOT Lincs NAPRA

The observer is a member of the Liverpool Astro Soc and observed the object through 7x50 binoculars. It was white, the size of a half crown and moved W-E. After 15 mins it climbed straight up out of sight.



7523 April 3 1975 21-35 LEVENSHULME, M/Cr MUFORA
est This report, though only of a LITS is of some interest since the witness accurately recorded the passage of a satellite some time before and could compare this object with it. It was a fuzzy white light travelling in a NNE to E direction at the speed of a slow aircraft. However no satellites fit the time or direction. Its path was described as erratic and 'lazy' like a seagull in flight.

7524 April 5 1975 18-30 NORTHENDEN MUFORA

A small red glowing object was reported over the Withington area, to the ESE, which was slowly descending behind houses. The possibility of an aircraft here seems high - and further information is being gathered.

THE ROCHDALE 'MYSTERY' (Repts 7525-29) MUFORA

Below follows the unravelling of a flap, and its eventual solution. MUFORA did not become aware of the situation until late April when three separate reports came in on April 23, May 2 and May 3 of orange red balls of fire sweeping slowly across the Littleborough skies. One object was said to elongate, split into three (one of which went out, one fell to the ground and one drifted away). Another ball was said to be seen drifting for 30 mins. A possible solution was found when it was learnt that on April 26 a tyre store had set alight and though extinguished quickly pockets of burning vapour in the area were not out of the question for several days. But matters were complicated when it was learnt that the Rochdale Observer had been receiving reports for weeks. One from before the fire (April 23) described an orange 'craft' whilst the latest (May 2) told of a flickering bonfire 'thing' floating over hills. The mystery was apparently solved when the Police confirmed they had had reports and had just found a couple of home made hot-air balloons with bags of fire beneath. They have not yet found others or caught the makers BUT it seems to be a good explanation for the reports. An example of how one must be very wary and judge stories by FACT not imagination.

11
AROUND THE GROUPS:- 3) NAPRA

As with the previous two in this series NAPRA have been actively involved with NUFON since the start. Indeed at one early stage they played host to a planning meeting (though only three groups were there).

The group was formed in Summer 1973 by Dave Gittens, who acts as Director. The aim was to collect and collate investigated reports for analysis but more recently they have spread their net a little wider to include subjects RELATED to Ufology (a factor becoming more and more necessary in the modern state of our subject). They now have a strong membership - spread over quite a wide area. Basically they cover the North Cheshire regions BUT they are growing to the north and spreading outwards into Lancashire. They have what can only be termed an excellent administrative structure which has taken a lot of planning to achieve. Their fields of research and investigative results, already well respected, can only greatly benefit thereby.

Their committee, apart from ever presents Dave Gittens and Bill Ashton (Chairman), consists of Secretary, Investigations Supervisor and Projects Officer. They have done a good deal of work, and the number of NAPRA investigations contained in this issue will prove that point. They are also one of the few local groups to produce a regular newsletter, NAPRA NEWSLINK (published bimonthly). It always gives a good read and seems to cram in more news and information than you would ever believe possible.

What are their views on UFOs? Of course they vary, but on the whole the extra-terrestrial hardware theory (both manned and unmanned) are looked on most favourably. With NAPRA around we can be sure their region will be thoroughly covered with regards UFO activity.

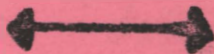
STOP PRESS:: MIKE DEAN - New addresss (see P 4)
Holly Cottage, Village Rd, Eastham, Wirral L62 0HE

ADVERTISEMENTS::

UFO DETECTOR - magnetic needle type - solid state
latching audio alarm - portable £7.80 (Post & battery inc.)
M JAY::: 102 Nelson Rd Chigford London E4 9AS

ASTRO-ANALYSIS: Problem analysis - personal report -
future trends inc. DATE, TIME & PLACE of birth & PO for £2.50
Editorial Address (Fully qualified consultant)

NUFON ASSOCIATED GROUPS



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 - New Chapel Observatory, Stoke, Staffs
- BUFORA (Yorkshire)**
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 - 3 CENTRAL PARK Wellhead HALIFAX HX1 2BT
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- WIRRAL Ufo Society**
 - KEN GREEN [051-354-1211 FX 62]
 - 760 New Chester Rd Bronborough Wirral L62 7ND

CORRECT TO : **MARCH 1975**

Additions and amendments - inside